Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part IV

[FD006-F] Edison, William L. (undated, ca. 1899-1902)

Family Records Series -- Correspondence

Title
[FD006-F] Edison, William L. (undated, ca. 1899-1902)

Description
This folder contains two undated letters by William Leslie Edison (1878-1937). One letter, addressed to Thomas Edison, was probably written around the time of William's twenty-first birthday. Announcing his intention to "paddle my own canoe" and "get along without your assistance," William informs his father that "I bear you no ill will and trust that your other children can learn to love you more than we have done." William adds that "I could never love, even like my step-mother and probably never will. I look upon her as the one who ruined our happiness and future." The other letter, addressed to his half-sister Madeleine and half-brother Charles, notes that "it is nearly two years since I have seen you and you both must be quite large now. . . . Your father thinks I have been a very bad boy and he don't like me any more." Images of these two letters, along with additional letters written by William L. Edison during the period 1899-1910, can be found in the Charles Edison Fund Collection.

URL

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/folder/FD006-F

Identifier

FD006-F

Type

Family Records

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Is Part Of

Family Records Series -- Correspondence

Alternative Title

Edison, William L. (undated, ca. 1899-1902)

Has Version

Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 221

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[FD006AAB] Letter, 1899-1900

Title
[FD006AAB] Letter, 1899-1900

Author
Edison, William Leslie

Recipient
Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1899-1900

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- Finances (TAE and family)

Folder ID
FD006-F

Microfilm ID
221:762

Document ID
FD006AAB

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/FD006AAB

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Timestamp
1 January 1899

Has Version
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Hotel Roland.
Fifty-ninth Street.
Between Madison and Park Avenues
New York.

Dear Father:

Your answer received and in reply would say that I am very ready to paddle my own canoe and I think I can get along without your assistance as I have done in the past, few months.

When we meet again in a few years I trust we will become better friends and understand each other better. Until then I bid you and the family good-bye. You can never be afraid that I will darken the doors of your house again

4-3759

Hotel Roland.
Fifty-ninth Street.
Between Madison and Park Avenues
New York.

I throw up my hands this time and will forget the things of yesterday and look to the future and trust you will succeed in everything as I hope to do. I wish you no ill will and trust that your other children can learn to love you more than we have done. I could never love, even like, my step-mother and probably never will. I look upon her as the one who ruined our happiness and future and yet you cannot blame her too much.

4-3759

Hotel Roland,
Fifty-ninth Street,
Between Madison and Park Avenues
New York.

3

what little money I receive in a few days I will invest in picture machines and a small factory. If I fail it will be my loss and even that cannot stop me from pushing ahead. If you can show that the goods I had were not given to me I will pay you, but otherwise I do not feel as though I am responsible for my debt.

Very truly Yours
William

4-3759

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[FD006AAC] Letter, 1900-1902

Title
[FD006AAC] Letter, 1900-1902

Author
Edison, William Leslie

Recipient

- Edison, Charles
- Edison, Madeleine

Mentioned

- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Blanche Travers (Mrs William L.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1900-1902

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Celebrations (anniversaries, birthdays, holidays)
- TAE personality and character
- Health and medicine

Folder ID
FD006-F

Microfilm ID
221:759

Document ID
FD006AAC

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/FD006AAC

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Timestamp
1 January 1900

Has Version
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51 West 48th. st
New York City

Dear little Kids:-

I hope that today you are very happy and having a very very merry xmas. I suppose you would hardly recognize me now but I would you surely. Just think it is nearly two years since I have seen you and you both must be quite large now. If your mother would permit you please send me a picture of you both and Theodore and I

4-3796

would appreciate it extremely 2
I dont suppose you and Ina will ever enjoy a Xmas together in the near future as your father thinks I have been a very bad boy and he dont like me any more. I can just shut my eyes and see you all, around the Xmas tree and I am sure Santa has been very good to you all. He must have forgotten me, for he never came near my little room. I have been very sick like you, Charles but God wanted us to live and pulled us 3 soon
you must take care of yourself and not catch cold. I have a terrible cold and yesterday it settled down into my lungs and I am afraid that Pneumonia will set in in a few days over if it does it will be all over for me as I am not strong now and with all this sadness I aint particular about living. My little wife is also very helpless. My Xmas day and sick and unhappy this Xmas I want make you but never mind I want make you these things as there are two many unpleasant things.

4.

Well little children I will close.
God bless you and may you have
a very happy new year
your Brother.
William

X mas Morning.